



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Y. Gross

Office: (502) 564-2015 **Cellular:** (502) 330-5063 **E-mail:** lisa.gross@education.ky.gov

KENTUCKY TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL NCLB WAIVERS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The U.S. Department of Education is now offering selected states the opportunity to request two additional waivers from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act (ESEA/NCLB).

This opportunity is provided to states that already have received waivers from ESEA/NCLB. In February, Kentucky was granted a waiver that provided flexibility in many areas related to public school assessment and accountability.

These additional waivers were not included in the original waiver package, but were recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) as necessary to complete the flexibility package. Two additional waivers are offered, and Kentucky will apply for both.

- Waiver of the requirements that state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs, or school districts) make AYP determinations -- Performance toward annual measurable objectives (AMOs, or goals) for all student subgroups must still be reported, and that performance must support continuous improvement in Title I schools that are not Reward Schools, Priority Schools or Focus Schools. This waiver will reinforce Kentucky's use of the Unbridled Learning: College/Career Readiness for All accountability system to measure progress, rather than the NCLB model.
- Waiver of ESEA sections 1113(a)(3)-(4) and 1113(c)(1), which require an LEA to select its Title I schools, and allocate Title I, Part A funds to those schools, in rank-order of poverty – This waiver would permit an LEA to serve a Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate below 60 percent and identified as a Priority School even if that school has a lower poverty rate than other Title I-participating schools in the LEA. This offers more flexibility to school districts in use of Title I, Part A funds as they serve schools designated as Priority Schools to address issues causing low academic performance.

Feedback or comments on the state's intent to apply for these waivers may be submitted to

maryann.miller@education.ky.gov no later than close of business on Friday, March 23.

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